

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 as indicated below. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

1. (currently amended) A deep fat fryer comprising:

a pan for holding liquid fat for frying food in a cooking environment, the pan having a ~~brim extending along its~~ topmost end;

a heater for heating fat in the pan;

a housing shielding the pan from the environment~~[[;]]~~ and having an upright exterior wall surface facing away from the pan~~[[]]~~; and

a detachable collar extending closely along and at least up to the ~~[[brim]]~~ topmost end of the pan and substantially around its periphery to intercept liquid as it passes over the topmost end and including~~[[;]]~~

~~characterized in that the collar is detachable and includes~~ a flange projecting outwardly from the ~~[[brim]]~~ topmost end and projecting downward closely along a preponderance of the exterior wall surface.

2. (original) A fryer according to claim 1, wherein the flange projects downwardly along at least a portion of said wall surface.

3. (original) A fryer according to claim 2, wherein a free edge of the flange abuts or extends closely along said wall surface.

4. (original) A fryer according to claim 3, wherein said wall surface has a rim having an upwardly facing surface extending around said housing, said free edge of said flange abutting or extending closely along said rim.

5. (previously presented) A fryer according to claim 2, wherein said portion of said wall surface along which said flange extends is inwardly recessed relative to a portion of said wall surface located under said recessed wall portion.

6. (original) A fryer according to claim 1, wherein said flange projects away from said wall surface, a free edge of said flange being radially and outwardly spaced from said wall surface.
7. (original) A fryer according to claim 6, wherein said flange extends upwardly.
8. (previously presented) A fryer according to claim 1, wherein the flange has an anti-adhesive outer surface.
9. (previously presented) A fryer according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the collar is of a flexible material.
10. (previously presented) A fryer according to claim 1, wherein at least said flange is of fat absorbing material.
11. (previously presented) A fryer according to claim 1, wherein at least said flange is of biodegradable material.
12. (previously presented) A collar for mounting in a position extending along a brim of a liquid fat holding pan of a fryer according to claim 1, the brim extending along a topmost end of the pan, the fryer further comprising a housing shielding the pan from the environment, and an upright exterior wall surface facing away from the pan; the collar having at least one portion for mounting closely along said brim; the collar including a flange projecting outwardly from the portion for mounting closely along said brim.